

CITY OF MORGAN HILL  
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND  
SPECIAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES - MAY 21, 2001

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kennedy called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

**City Council**

Present: Council Members Carr, Chang, Sellers, Tate and Mayor Kennedy

**Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)**

Present: Christopher England, Quinn Kennett, Leia Layus

Absent: Jennifer Valenzuela, Shweta Singh, Chelsea Laning, Billy Lewis, Adam Yinger

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Rod Murcay, Family First Baptist Church; Evonne Code and Renee Brown, South Valley Christian Therapy Association; Julie Spier, City of Morgan Hill Recreation Department; Ray Jimenez, Morgan Hill Unified School District; Toni DeAnda, Mt. Madonna YMCA; Shelle Thomas, parent; Ed Tewes, City Manager; Emma Lucas, Community Solutions; Ray Wolfe, YMCA; Akemi Flynn, The Cornerstone Project; Marilyn Dubil, Morgan Hill Times; Chief of Police Schwab; David Adams and John Edwards, Lighthouse; and Robert McDuff, Church of the Valley.

**DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA**

City Clerk Torrez certified that the special meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Kennedy opened the floor to public comments for items not appearing on the agenda. No comments were offered.

**BUSINESS:**

1. **CORNERSTONE PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Mayor Kennedy thanked those present for attending this meeting as this is a very crucial subject. This started out as a concern about what the City and the community can do for the safety, health and well being of youth. He indicated that it was approximately one year ago that Council Member Tate, Lori Escobar and representatives from the YMCA introduced the Cornerstone Project to the City. At that time, it was a philosophical level impact to him. He has since attended a workshop entitled "Safe from the Start" which focused on reducing youth's exposure to violence. He noted that there were two tragic killings at two high schools near San Diego and that he decided at that time that the City and the community needs to get together to see if there is something that can be done by the City, social service groups, School District, private professional groups, citizens, and

churches to address the issue and help our youth. It was decided to form a small committee to look at what can be done. He recommended that focus be given to health, safety, or other issues facing the youth in the community.

The following youth issues were identified:

- Drugs and alcohol used to cover up hurt
- History of family alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Inconsistency in assignment of community hours
- Youth need to understand that there are better decisions to be made versus covering up their hurt.
- The need for sports and youth activities
- Entire family needs to get involved (family organizations)
- Be careful on how problems are addressed
- Control of youth is everywhere, youth feeling like prisoners at times
- Parents competing with lenient rules of other parents
- Listen to youth and empower them
- Adults may be the problem and not youth
- Disappearance of the "multi-generation family"
- Media focusing on problems versus positive things about youth

Akemi Flynn addressed the Cornerstone Project and the 40 Developmental Assets.

Mayor Kennedy stated that he has attended a couple of workshops sponsored by the YMCA on the Cornerstone project. He said that a formal program does not exist but that there are some things that the community can do such as conducting an audit and reviewing what other individuals, groups, and organizations are doing to help focus on building assets. He recommended that those in attendance get together again and talk about how it can collaborate and build on the focus to fill the voids. He said that one of the first steps that the City Council can take is the adoption of a resolution in support of building these 40 assets. Support of the assets would establish a direction and focus. He would suggest to the City Council that any project that comes before it be looked at and compare it to the assets to make sure that it is consistent with the policy objective.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the survey indicates that only 15% of youth believe that the community cares about them. He stated that the YMCA has been teaching this subject matter for a long time in terms of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The YMCA is in the process of going through each of its programs, evaluating it to see what can enhance assets for youth.

Ms. Flynn stated that each organization has its own focus area and each organization needs to choose the assets that are tied closest to its mission/goals. Also, assets can be integrated into school plans. She felt that there is a lot of work that needs to take place.

Council Member Carr recommended that the City work with the YMCA, staff from the Cornerstone project and others who can make a full presentation, including school personnel and the business community. This could be held as a community forum as a follow-up to this meeting with a meeting consisting of those individuals in attendance this evening.

Mayor Kennedy stated that he would like to keep the momentum going, even if the schools are coming to a close for the year.

Ms. Flynn suggested that those individuals who represent organizations in attendance take the asset framework back to their organizations. She would provide the organizations with additional materials, including an asset checklist and guidelines on building assets. Each group can perform a self assessment. By the time falls comes around to meet again, organizations will come forward with asset building stories to share.

Council Member Tate supported institutionalizing the 40 assets at the Council level. He recommended that everyone go back to their organization and give consideration to the assets and build it as a culture within organizations. He agreed that there has to be a collaboration on the programs in place so that mixed messages are not sent. He sees a need to get the organizations to interchange with each other to eliminate consistencies. He felt that the process is to get the 40 assets into each organization, involving businesses and churches.

YAC Member Kennett stated that this program needs to be marketed in such a way that it motivates teens to get involved. Teens need to be shown that by including the 40 assets in their lives, they will be happier and develop themselves.

Mayor Kennedy recommended that the YAC Members in attendance take back to the Youth Advisory Committee the suggestion to reach out to other youths of different backgrounds.

Ms. Flynn said that a critical message that needs to be understood is that development assets are not just for adults to build in young people but that young people also need to build these assets into peers and younger children.

Mayor Kennedy felt that it was important to build these assets in youths and that there needs to be an understanding of what needs to be done to correct behaviors and attitudes. He stated that he would commit to calling a meeting of this group in September after school is back in session. He requested that the City Manager agendize a resolution adopting the 40 developmental assets into a City policy. He suggested that each member in attendance take back this information to respective organizations and discuss seeing if it is something that can be incorporated in mission statements, policies and/or goals. He recommended that each organization conduct an audit/assessment of what is already being done. He supported the suggestion of having the faith-based communities get together to build on the work that has been done and keep the process moving.

YAK Member England felt that it would be good for YAC members to discuss ways to get people involved and to get people to acknowledge the 40 assets, including assets in their lives.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

### **MINUTES RECORDED AND PREPARED BY:**

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**Irma Torrez, City Clerk**